

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

AID-20 TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 /192 W

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P R 241510Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0229

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS PARIS 15305

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SHAH

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH WEEKLY "LES
INFORMATIONS" RELEASED JUNE 23, THE SHAH, REPLYING
TO THE QUESTION WHETHER IRAN WOULD ONE DAY POSSESS A
NUCLEAR WEAPON, IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "CERTAINLY, AND
SOONER THAN IS BELIEVED, BUT CONTRARY TO INDIA, WE
HAVE FIRST THOUGHT OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEN OF TECHNOLOGY.

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YOU SEE THE RESULT TODAY".

2. REFERRING TO THE FRANCO-IRANIAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1974, THE SHAH SAID THAT THEY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVER SIGNED BETWEEN AN OIL PRODUCING AND AN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY, AMOUNTING TO OVER THREE BILLION DOLLARS. OTHER PROJECTS BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AMOUNT TO FIVE BILLION DOLLARS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FRENCH HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN IRAN NOW THAT "CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CLOSED TO THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE MR. NIXON'S VISIT TO RIAD AND CAIRO".

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON ARMS PURCHASES, THE SHAH STATED: "THE PERSIAN GULF IS A STRATEGIC ZONE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE. THE SMALLEST SPARK AND EVERYTHING BLOWS UP. THE VERY SOPHISTICATED ARMY THAT I MAINTAIN IS MY 'FORCE DE DISSUASION ET DE FRAPPE'. WHAT DO THE FRENCH DO WITH THEIR BOMB? I DO THE SAME WITH MY RESOURCES."

4. ACCORDING TO AN AFP ITEM, THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 24 DENYING THAT THE SHAH INTENDED TO GIVE IRAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "THIS INFORMATION IS TOTALLY INVENTED AND WITHOUT ANY BASIS WHATSOEVER", THE EMBASSY SAID, SPECIFYING THAT THE SHAH HAD NEVER MADE A STATEMENT THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED IN THAT SENSE.
STONE

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